vs. Union of India and others inter-alia directed that the advice of the Commission shall ordinarily be binding on the Government.

(b) No Sir, the position stated above is reflected in the NCBC Act 1993 in Sub-section 2 of Section 9.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has to take a view on the advices of the NCBC before notifying inclusions/exclusions of castes/communities in the Central List of OBCs. Such a decision has its socio-economic and political impact and hence the decision has to be taken at the highest level in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned with the subject matter. Time limit of one month can not be adhered to in this regard.

(e) and (f) At any given point of time, inevitably there would be some persons who would become ineligible for Government jobs due to over-age and other factors. Taking this into account the Government of India, amongst other things, has already given age relaxation of three years in case of OBC candidates.

Import of Suntlower and Soyabean under OGL

*311. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sunflower and soyabean are to be imported under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on indigenous industries; and

(d) the measures proposed to encourage increase in the indigenous production of sunflower and soyabean;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government has placed Soyabean seed in split and cracked form and Sunflower seeds in the Free List of Imports with effect from 15th October, 1998. Import of Sunflower seeds is subject to Quarantine restrictions.

(c) Free imports are expected to help better utilisation of the indigenous installed capacity. Presently, only 35 to 40% capacity is being utilised due to shortage of oilseeds in the country.

(d) A centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 23 States covering 374 selected Districts. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs, like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed mini-kits, sprinkler sets, improved farm, implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients and rhizobium culture etc. In addition, Frontline and General Demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' felds to disseminate the production technology.

Development of SSI sector

*312. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar of "Strategies for speedier of SSI sectors"; was held in the Capital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith suggestion made by the participants;

(c) whether it is a fact that around eighty five percent of the units in this sector are yet to have any form of access to bank finance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to narrow down the gap between the level of credit available and the credit requird by SSI sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):

(a) and (b) A Seminar on "Strategies for Speedier Development of SSI Sector" was organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 27th October, 1998 at PHD House, New Delhi.